

Remarks

Upon entry of the above Amendment, claims 1-20 and 28-60 are pending. New claims 39-60 are added. No other claims are amended or canceled. Applicant requests allowance of these claims in view of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,926,811 to Miller *et al.* ("Miller") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,212 to Rennison *et al.* ("Rennison"). Applicant traverses these rejections, because the references relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Miller apparently teaches a system for generating expanded query terms. According to Miller, a search query provided by the user is expanded to provide a set of related concepts for the query. The user may then select which, if any of the concepts to include within the query. Apparently, the query is expanded by using terms that are related to one another by their existence in a document. The expanded query terms are apparently used to retrieve documents or records corresponding to the original query term. Miller teaches how the query is generated as opposed to how data is retrieved.

The Examiner acknowledges that Miller does not teach building a context as set forth in claim 1. The Examiner apparently relies on Rennison for this element of the invention. Rennison apparently teaches a tool for navigating through large collections of multidimensional information. Apparently, a user can use the tool to navigate from topics to sub-topics to sub-sub-topics, etc., eventually to an information item (*i.e.*, a document) via a three-dimension graphical user interface.

Among other things, the combination of Miller and Rennison does not teach or suggest building a context including said occurrence (from one of said plurality of descendant groups) and said related data (from said at least one predecessor group). Rennison apparently recognizes two types of relationships: 1) relationships between information items and meta-information items; and 2) relationships between meta-

information items and other meta-information items. (See Rennison at column 4, lines 13-17.) In contrast, the invention of claim 1 specifies a third type of relationships not taught or suggested by Rennison: relationships between information items (*i.e.*, occurrence of the search term) and other information items (*i.e.*, related data). Rennison would have to teach or suggest this type of relationship in order to build the context recited in claim 1.

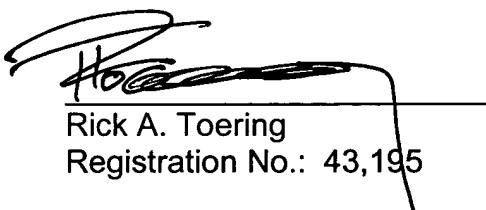
For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Each of the pending independent claims includes a feature similar to that discussed above with respect to claim 1. For at least this reason, the pending independent claims are also patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Furthermore, the remaining pending claims depend from and add features to one of the pending independent claims. For at least this reason the pending dependant claims are also patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn and all the pending claims be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



Rick A. Toering
Registration No.: 43,195

MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND
POPEO P.C.
12010 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 900
Reston, Virginia 20190
703-464-4806

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